(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) Night shelters are set up by the State Governments as per the requirements subject to availability of funds. Insofar as the Central Government is concerned, there is no such proposal.

Physically and mentally challenged children

1465. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have ever conducted any research to ascertain why large number of children are physically and mentally challenged in the tribal areas of Central India, such as Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Orissa, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the measures contemplated to improve the situation;

(c) whether Government propose to offer institutional support to these children; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (d) According to the NSSO, 2002 prevalence rate of disability (number of disabled persons per lakh population) in the mentioned States and All India are given below:—

State	Prevalence Rate
Rajasthan	1468
Jharkhand	1236
Orissa	459
Chattisgarh	1810
Madhya Pradesh	1680
All India	1755

Since there is no evidence of higher prevalence of disability in the tribal areas of Central India, no such study has been undertaken.

Protection of dalits

†1466. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether an International Human Rights Monitoring Organisation has recently published a report stating that India has failed to give protection to the dalits under the international laws;

(b) whether Central Government are aware of this report, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Central Government are taking any steps in the matter, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) No such organizations has set report to the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Construction of hostels for SC boys and girls

1467. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received proposal from Government of Gujarat for sanction of 50 per cent central assistance for the construction of Babu Jagjivan Ram Hostels and residential schools for SC boys and girls under centrally sponsored scheme;

(b) if so, the present status of these proposals; and

(c) by when the Central finance assistance will be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.